

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 12, 14, 15, 17, 28, 30, and 31 are in independent form. Claims 1-7, 11, 12, 17-23, 27, 28, 30 and 31 have been amended solely as to matters of form not affecting the scope of any recitation.

A Claim To Priority and a certified copy of the priority document for this application were filed on May 11, 2001 (see the attached PAIR print-out). Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 5-7 and 21-23 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Those claims have not been so rewritten because, for the reasons given below, their base claims are believed to be allowable.

Claims 1-4, 8, 10-20, 24 and 26-32 were rejected, apparently under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0161496 (Hayashi et al.), and Claims 9 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Hayashi*. After a careful review of the prior art and of the Office Action, however, Applicant finds himself unable to agree with these rejections, for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus that comprises data input means for inputting image data and storing the image data in a memory, and addition means for adding a predetermined code to the image data stored in the memory. Also provided are control means for controlling access to the memory by the data input means and the addition means, and the control means control the data input

means and addition means so as to operate the data input means and addition means substantially simultaneously.

Hayashi relates to a digital watermark embedding unit (shown as 1503 in Fig. 15) that embeds a watermark in a body of image data. A control unit (shown as 1511 in Fig. 15) controls the apparatus components, including the digital watermark embedding unit. A memory medium (shown as 1513 in Fig. 15) stores program code to be read by the control unit. In the *Hayashi* apparatus, the memory medium is used for storing program code. Applicant submits that nothing in that patent would teach or suggest that the memory medium is or should be used storing image data. Because of this, *Hayashi* also fails to teach or suggest the following features of Claim 1 (or one or another of the other independent claims): controlling access to the recited memory; data input means storing image data in such memory, addition means adding to data stored in such memory; and controlling such data input means and addition means so as to make them operate substantially simultaneously. For all these reasons, Claim 1 is believed clearly to be allowable over *Hayashi*.

Each of the other independent claims is believed to be allowable over *Hayashi* for the same reasons as are advanced above with regard to Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

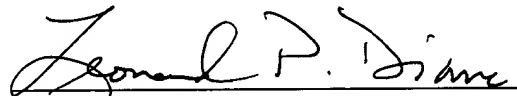
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the

same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", written over a horizontal line.

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